

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the above identified application is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated 6/29/04 the Examiner rejected pending claims 1-14. The Office Action and the reference cited therein have been carefully considered and the remarks below are presented in an effort to advance prosecution of the application.

The Examiner rejected the claims as anticipated by published US Patent Application US 2002 0004417 (Redekop).

However, all the elements in Claim 1, 5 and 10, for example, are not taught or suggested in the cited references, either singly or in combination. For example, there is no teaching or suggestion in Redekop that "a paddle extends at an angle from the leading edge adjacent to the first end" as set forth in Claims 1, 5 and 10. In Figure 4 of Redekop, it is noted that the "paddle" portion of the blade (indicated by lead line 193) is adjacent to the second end (i.e. the distal end of the blade) rather than the first end (i.e. proximal end of the blade.)

Regarding claims 3, 7, and 13 the Examiner seems to identify the "other side edge 196" of the blade in Redekop as the "trailing" edge. However, as seen in Figure 4, the other edge 196 forms the paddle and is perpendicular to the leading edge 195 of the blade. The leading edge 195 of the blade moves in the direction of rotation and cuts crop material. A cutting edge on the perpendicular surface 196 would be ineffective in cutting crop material. Thus the Examiner's characterization that the trailing edge 196 of Redekop has a second sharpened cutting edge is confusing.

Regarding claims 4, 8 and 14, the Examiner seems to identify, in the upside down Figure 4 inserted into the Office Action, that the intermediate blade portion 192 is a "second paddle." The Examiner previously identified the main planar portion 193 of that same blade surface as the first paddle. Thus, his characterization of one element as "two" paddles is confusing and seems incorrect.

It is therefore believed that the rejection of all the claims should be withdrawn and that this application is in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully,


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